APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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DICKSTEIN SHAPIRO MORIN & OSHINSKY LLP
2101 L Street, NW
Washington, DC 20037

EXAMINER
HILLERY, NATHAN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2176	

DATE MAILED: 12/17/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/901,018	NARAHARA, KOUICHI
Office Action Summary	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Nathan Hillery	2176	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *10 July 2001*.
2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.
3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-33* is/are pending in the application.
    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6)☒ Claim(s) *1-33* is/are rejected.
7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *10 July 2001* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.
    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
    a)☒ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:
      1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3)☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date *7/10/01*.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6)☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1.   This action is responsive to communications: Application filed on 7/10/01.

2.   Claims 1 – 33 are pending in the case. Claims 1, 18, 29, 32 and 33 are

independent.

Priority

3.   Applicant is advised of possible benefits under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), wherein an

application for patent filed in the United States may be entitled to the benefit of the filing

date of a prior application filed in a foreign country.

4.   Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which

papers have been placed of record in the file.

5.   Should applicant desire to obtain the benefit of foreign priority under 35

U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) prior to declaration of an interference, a translation of the foreign

application should be submitted under 37 CFR 1.55 in reply to this action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
> forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
> the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
> invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
> Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

7.   Claims 1 – 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Yoda et al. (US 6119117 A).

8.   **Regarding independent claim 1**, Yoda et al. teach that *registering document*

information on each document, acquiring a journal of operations by a user, which

involves the contents of a job indicating which document and how it has been used

during the job execution, and registering job information on each job including a job

name and a user name on the job such that the job information includes, as an attribute,

the contents of the job in the acquired journal of operations; and creating a list of related

documents in accordance with the specification of the job name or the user name on the

job by an operator using the job information and the document information (Column 4,

lines 4 – 16), which provide for **a first unit generating an operational history record**

(*journal of operations*) **of one of the stored documents of the group every time an**

operation on said one of the stored documents is performed by a document

operation device; a second unit storing the operational history records generated

by the first unit; and a third unit determining whether a selected item of the

operational history record, stored for a currently processed document among the

stored documents, matches with a corresponding item of each of the operational

history records, stored for the remaining ones of the stored documents other

than the currently processed document, so that the third unit extracts a list of

related documents, which are related to the currently processed document, from

the remaining ones of the stored documents of the group, based on results of the

matching, except Yoda et al. do not explicitly teach **matching**. However, it would have

been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to be

motivated to modify and/or use Yoda et al. to match, since Yoda et al. do teach that

"LUCY" has been entered in "USER NAME". In this state, when the user specifies the

"RETRIEVE JOBS" button, the jobs LUCY did are retrieved and the job listing process

of displaying a list of the related jobs is started (Column 13, lines 46 – 50).

9.   **Regarding dependent claims 2 – 4,** Yoda et al. teach that *creating a list of*

related documents in accordance with the specification of the job name or the user

name on the job by an operator using the job information and the document information

(Column 4, lines 14 – 16), which provide for **the third unit performs the matching**

between the currently processed document and the remaining ones of the stored

documents of the group with respect to at least one item of each operational

history record, that **said at least one item of each operational history record is**

selectable from among items contained in each operational history record, and

that **said at least one item of each operational history record is selected by the**

document operation device from among items contained in each operational

history record.

10.   **Regarding dependent claims 5 – 7,** Yoda et al. teach that *as shown in FIG. 4,*

the job storage section 23 stores, as one unit of a job, a job ID acting as an identifier

specifying a job uniquely, the job name, the user name on the job, and the contents of

the job in such a manner that they are associated with each other. The related

document IDs, the access types indicating whether the documents have been referred

to or created, the time when the user operated on the document, and the comments the

user can set freely are stored as the contents of the job (Column 10, lines 32 – 41),

which provide that **each operational history record contains an item of date and**

time of operation for one of the stored documents of the group, that **each**

operational history record contains an item of operator name for one of the
stored documents of the group, and that each operational history record contains
an item of operation type for one of the stored documents of the group.

11.   **Regarding dependent claims 8 and 9,** Yoda et al. teach that *in the related
document retrieval process of FIG. 23, the related document retrieval list window first
appears (step I1 of FIG. 23). The job name corresponding to the job ID given in the
parameter, the user name, and the job duration time are retrieved from the job storage
section 23. The job duration time is calculated from the maximum and minimum values
of the times in the contents of the job. The window is updated to reflect the retrieved
data items (step I2)* (Column 14, lines 37 – 44), which provide that **the third unit
comprises a document relation estimating unit calculating an estimated degree of
relation between the currently processed document and each of the remaining
ones of the stored documents of the group by using the selected item of the
operational history record of the currently processed document, so that the third
unit extracts the list of related documents based on the estimated degrees of
relation calculated for the remaining ones of the stored documents,** and that **each
operational history record contains an item of time period of operation for one of
the stored documents of the group, and wherein the document relation estimating
unit calculates an estimated degree of relation between the currently processed
document and each of the remaining ones of the stored documents by using the
item of the operation time period of the currently processed document when said
item is selected.**

12.   **Regarding dependent claims 10 – 12,** Yoda et al. do not explicitly teach **the**

number of reference accesses, amount of copied data, or list of storage locations.

However, Yoda et al. do teach that *the related document IDs, the access types*

indicating whether the documents have been referred to or created, the time when the

user operated on the document, and the comments the user can set freely are stored as

the contents of the job (Column 10, lines 37 – 41). Consequently, it would have been

obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to be motivated to

use and/or modify the invention of Yoda et al. to provide that **each operational history**

record contains an item of the number of reference accesses for one of the stored

documents of the group, and wherein the document relation estimating unit

calculates an estimated degree of relation between the currently processed

document and each of the remaining ones of the stored documents by using the

item of the reference access number of the currently processed document when

said item is selected, that **each operational history record contains an item of**

amount of copied data for one of the stored documents of the group, and wherein

the document relation estimating unit calculates an estimated degree of relation

between the currently processed document and each of the remaining ones of the

stored documents by using the item of the copied data amount of the currently

processed document when said item is selected, and that **each of the stored**

documents of the group contains a related document indication list, the related

document indication list indicating a list of storage locations of related

documents that are subjected to either copying operations to the document or

reference accesses from the document, and wherein the document relation

estimating unit calculates an estimated degree of relation between the currently

processed document and each of the remaining ones of the stored documents by

using the related document indication list of the currently processed document,

since Yoda et al. do store journals of operations including whether the documents have

been referred to or not and thus allowing the skilled artisan to use and/or modify the

invention of Yoda et al. to use the journal's data as a search criteria to generate a list of

related documents to provide the user with more options so that the user can filter the

list of related documents to his needs.

13.   **Regarding dependent claims 13 and 15**, Yoda et al. teach that *FIG. 17 shows*

the job list window which appears when the job listing process (step F5) is started in the

job retrieval process of FIG. 18. FIG. 19 is a flowchart for the job listing process. In the

job listing process of FIG. 19, the job list window first appears (step G1 of FIG. 19).

Using the retrieval information (JOB NAME, USER NAME, and JOB DURATION TIME)

entered from the job retrieval window, the job storage section is searched for the

relevant pieces of job information. The window is updated to reflect the retrieved data

items (step G2) (Column 13, lines 53 – 63) and that *when the user specifies the*

"RETRIEVE RELATED DOCUMENT" button located at the bottom of the window (steps

G3 and G4), the related document retrieval process of displaying the related documents

for the job chosen by a check is started (step G7) (Column 14, lines 4 – 8), which

provide that **the third unit transmits the list of related documents to the document**

operation device, so that the document operation device outputs the list of

related document in a recognizable form, and that **a document transmission unit
transmitting, when a request of outputting a related document contained in the
list of related documents is received from the document operation device, data of
said related document from the document storage device to the document
operation device.**

14.   **Regarding dependent claim 14**, Yoda et al. teach that *creating a list of related
documents in accordance with the specification of the job name or the user name on the
job by an operator using the job information and the document information* (Column 4,
lines 14 – 16), which provide for **the third unit stores a correlation between the list
of related documents and an identifier of the operator who has processed the
current document, together with the list of related documents, and, when the
operator starts processing a new document, the third unit reads the list of related
documents in response to the operator identifier by using the correlation between
the list of related documents and the operator identifier.**

15.   **Regarding dependent claims 16 and 17**, Yoda et al. teach that *FIG. 1 is a
block diagram of the overall system configuration of a first embodiment according to the
present invention* (Column 7, lines 1 – 3), which provide that **the document
management apparatus is connected to the document storage device via a
network, and that the document management apparatus is connected to the
document operation device via a network.**

16.   **Regarding independent claim 18**, the claim incorporates substantially similar
subject matter as claim 1, and is rejected along the same rationale.

17.   **Regarding dependent claim 19**, the claim incorporates substantially similar subject matter as claim 2, and is rejected along the same rationale.

18.   **Regarding dependent claim 20**, the claim incorporates substantially similar subject matter as claim 3, and is rejected along the same rationale.

19.   **Regarding dependent claim 21**, the claim incorporates substantially similar subject matter as claim 5, and is rejected along the same rationale.

20.   **Regarding dependent claim 22**, the claim incorporates substantially similar subject matter as claim 6, and is rejected along the same rationale.

21.   **Regarding dependent claim 23**, the claim incorporates substantially similar subject matter as claim 7, and is rejected along the same rationale.

22.   **Regarding dependent claim 24**, the claim incorporates substantially similar subject matter as claim 8, and is rejected along the same rationale.

23.   **Regarding dependent claim 25**, the claim incorporates substantially similar subject matter as claim 9, and is rejected along the same rationale.

24.   **Regarding dependent claim 26**, the claim incorporates substantially similar subject matter as claim 10, and is rejected along the same rationale.

25.   **Regarding dependent claim 27**, the claim incorporates substantially similar subject matter as claim 11, and is rejected along the same rationale.

26.   **Regarding dependent claim 28**, the claim incorporates substantially similar subject matter as claim 12, and is rejected along the same rationale.

27.   **Regarding independent claim 29**, the claim incorporates substantially similar subject matter as claim 1, and is rejected along the same rationale.

28.   **Regarding dependent claim 30**, the claim incorporates substantially similar

subject matter as claims 13 and 14, and is rejected along the same rationale.

29.   **Regarding dependent claim 31**, the claim incorporates substantially similar

subject matter as claim 15, and is rejected along the same rationale.

30.   **Regarding independent claim 32**, the claim incorporates substantially similar

subject matter as claim 1, and is rejected along the same rationale.

31.   **Regarding independent claim 33**, the claim incorporates substantially similar

subject matter as claim 1, and is rejected along the same rationale.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Nathan Hillery whose telephone number is (571) 272-

4091. The examiner can normally be reached on M - F, 10:30 a.m. - 7:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Joseph H. Feild can be reached on (571) 272-4090. The fax phone number

for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

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you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JOSEPH FEILD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

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